

## CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5           1.     A method for maintaining a user's state within a database table, the method comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a request for a first batch of records from a database server;
  - retrieving the first batch of record from the database
  - 10   server;
  - determining a minimum value and maximum value for at least one field in the first batch of records;
  - receiving a request for a second batch of records;
  - in response to a determination that the request for the
  - 15   second batch of records was a next request, retrieving the second batch of records from the database server, wherein the second batch of records contains a value for the at least one field that is greater than the maximum value of the at least one field in the first batch of records; and
  - in response to a determination that the request for the
  - 20   second batch of records was a previous request, retrieving the second batch of records from the database server, wherein the second batch of records contains a value for the at least one field that is less than the minimum value of the at least one field in the first batch of records.
- 25           2.     The method of Claim 1, wherein the request for a second batch of records is a Structured Query Language (SQL) statement.

3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising the step of storing the maximum value and the minimum value for inclusion in a subsequent request for a batch of records.

5 4. The method of Claim 2,  
wherein the SQL statement has the form:

SELECT TOP 20 \* FROM Table

WHERE

(Table.Field1 > Current Maximum Field1)

10 OR

(Table.Field1 = Current Maximum Field1 AND  
Table.Field2 > Current Maximum Field2); and

15 wherein a Table clause represents the name of the database table, a Current Maximum Field1 represents a maximum value of a Field1 field in previously received records, a Current Maximum Field2 represents a maximum value of a Field2 field in previously received records.

5. The method of Claim 2,

wherein the SQL statement has the form:

SELECT TOP 20 \* FROM

(SELECT TOP 20 \* FROM Table

WHERE

(Table.Field1 < Current Maximum Field1)

OR

(Table.Field1 = Current Minimum Field1 AND

Table.Field2 < Current Minimum Field2)

ORDER BY Table.Field1 DESC, Table.Field2 DESC);

and

wherein a Table clause represents the name of the database table, a Current Minimum Field1 represents a minimum value of a Field1 field in previously received records, a Current Minimum Field2 represents a minimum value of a Field2 field in previously received records.

6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the user with a previous button operative for initiating the request for a second batch of records.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the user with a next button operative for initiating the request for a second batch of records.

8. A system for maintaining a user's state within a database table comprising:

a database server operative for maintaining a plurality of database records;

5 a client computer, operative for presenting a batch of database records to the user;

a web server operative for retrieving a batch of database records from the database server and for providing the batch of database records to the client computer;

10 wherein the client computer is further operative for storing at least one field value contained in a retrieved batch of database records; and

wherein the web server is further operative to determine which batch of records to retrieve from the database server, based on the  
15 field value contained in the received batch of records and stored by the client computer.

9. The system of 8, wherein the field value is a maximum field value and the batch of records to be retrieved comprises at least one  
20 record having a field entry that is greater than the field value.

10. The system of 8, wherein the field value is a minimum field value and the batch of records to be retrieved comprises at least one record having a field entry that is less than the field value.

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11. The system of 8, wherein the web server does not maintain a record of the user's state within the database table.

12. The system of 11, wherein the database server does not maintain a record of the user's state within the database table.

13. The system of 12, wherein the database server does not  
5 create a partitioned database.

14. The system of 8, wherein the client computer does not maintain a record of the user's state within the database table.

15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving a request for a first batch of records from a database table on a database server;

5 retrieving the first batch of record from the database server;

determining a minimum value and maximum value for at least one field in the first batch of records;

receiving a request for a second batch of records;

10 making a determination as to which records in the database server to retrieve, based on the maximum value or the minimum value.

16. The computer-readable medium of 15, wherein the step of  
15 making a determination as to which records in the database server to retrieve, does not require the database server to maintain a record of the first batch of records retrieved from the database table.

17. The computer-readable medium of 15, wherein the  
20 database server does not create a partitioned database.